



Weekly Libya .Xplored report

November 23, 2018

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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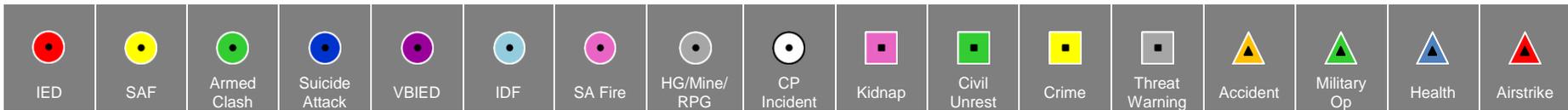
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LIBYA ACTIVITY MAP

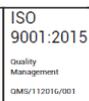


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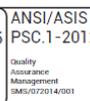
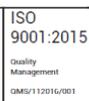
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TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide Attack	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike



OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- Tripoli remains unstable following the conflict in August/September. A new security plan devised for the city will see a continuation of the instability in the short to medium term while changes are carried out, and deals are done. There remains the potential for further larger-scale conflict.
- The north-west coastline remains unstable with local, national and international actors vying for influence and control. Further maneuvering and potential confrontations are possible in the short to medium term.
- Terrorist groups remain active across Libya and will continue to mount attacks against security forces, governmental and state institutions. They also pose a threat to more symbolic targets as well as the international community. The threat posed by these groups is assessed to have increased in the north-west following an increase in operational tempo.

Medium to long term outlook

- UNSMIL has attempted to consolidate international support behind its roadmap for Libya and is now looking at holding the National Gathering in January 2019 with elections to follow in the spring. There remain a number of spoilers as well as those supporting the parallel Libyan roadmap which is focused initially on restructuring the Presidential Council. Domestic and international competition and opposing agendas will continue to fuel division and hamper positive progress.
- Some positive changes are being seen in the aftermath of the recent Tripoli conflict, however, militias still retain significant control of the capital. Tripoli will not gain long-term stability until there is political, and military, unification and it will continue to see various stakeholders looking to gain, retain or expand influence in the city.
- A security vacuum in the south ensures transnational and domestic terrorist groupings, as well as foreign mercenaries and rebel groups, have space to regroup, train and create rear support areas. The presence of rebel groups from Chad and Sudan could draw both countries further into the Libyan crisis.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- The US and Italy held their inaugural meeting of the US-Italy Strategic Dialogue on November 19 - 20. Four areas of cooperation were discussed; reinforcing the goal for a stable, unified Libya, and rallying international support for the UN mediation in Libya in the wake of the Palermo Conference; effectively countering terrorist threats to Europe and the United States in coordination with Allies and coalition partners; improving Europe's energy security and diversification; and developing and investing in joint and multilateral efforts to improve security and defense cooperation in the Mediterranean region.
- The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) has stated that five European countries have released funds from frozen Libyan accounts; UK, Germany, Luxembourg, and Belgium. The claim comes after Belgium recently came under pressure to explain the transfer of funds from frozen accounts.
- The former US Ambassador to Libya, Peter Bodde, returned on November 15, 2018 to serve as the Charge d'Affaires to the Libyan External Office in Tunis.
- The North Korean Ambassador has stated his country is determined to develop relations with all friendly countries including Libya and that North Korean workers are ready to return to the country and contribute to the country's reconstruction.
- Omar al-Tarhouni has presented his credentials in Rome as the GNA's ambassador. Tarhouni was appointed by the PC at the end of July as one of nine new ambassadors.
- Vice President (GNA) Ahmed Maiteeq has stated that the liquidity crisis will be over by the "beginning of February." Once the rates converge and the supply of dinars and dollars is freed up, Maiteeq stated that they would begin reducing the fuel subsidies that have contributed to fuel smuggling.
- The chairman of the HCS, Khalid Mishri, has invited the Speaker of the HoR, Aguila Saleh to Tripoli. Mishri stated the two men have met on three previous occasions, however, not in Tripoli. The invite comes after reporting suggesting that Fayeze Sarraj has invited Haftar to Tripoli.

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- Mishri, stated that he was in agreement with Prime Minister Sarraj in rejecting the transfer of the Supreme Commander of the Libyan Army to Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. At present, the title sits with Sarraj as the president of the PC. Mishri also allegedly criticized the decision to bring sanctions against Saleh Badi to UN Envoy Ghassan Salamé as being “selective.”
- The head of the dialogue committee for the HoR Abdelsalam Nasiya has suggested that they are pursuing the restructuring of the PC along with the HCS. This comes after a member of the HCS suggested they were withdrawing from the process to support the UNSMIL roadmap.
- Ahmed Gaddafi Al-Dam, a political figure with the National Fighting Front and cousin and special correspondent for Muammar Gadhafi, has stated that they will participate in the National Gathering. UNSMIL has stated they hope to stage the National Gathering in January 2019.
- The mayor of Tazirbu, in Kufrah province, has stated that 200 families have left the town due to poor services in the municipality. He went on to stated that the HoR hasn't provided a budget since they took responsibility for the town. The area is home to oil and gas resources as well as 108 wells on the GMMR.
- Celebrations took place on November 20 for the Prophet Mohammed's birthday. The celebrations included Sufi traditions which have allegedly been suppressed by Salafists in recent years. Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj also took part in the Maulid celebrations which were denounced as “heresy” by Salafists.

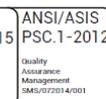
Security

- The FCO, along with the US and France, has secured an agreement by the UNSC to place Saleh Badi under sanctions. Badi commands the Samoud Brigade which was heavily involved in the August/ September clashes. Badi will now be subjected to a travel ban and asset freeze. A statement from Misrata condemned the move claiming Badi was known for his “sacrifices for the homeland and the struggle and support for the righteous” while comparing the situation to “war criminals who have destroyed Benghazi and Derna,” a clear reference to the LNA. Mishri claimed the move was “selective.”
- A group of Russian mercenaries and military veterans is asking the International Criminal Court to prosecute owners of Russian Private Military Companies (PMC) for war crimes. The Russian Defence Ministry states that PMCs are banned under the constitution, however Russian mercenaries are stating they have seen combat in Libya, Eastern Ukraine, Central African Republic, Gabon, Sudan, Yemen and other countries.
- The Commander of the Western Military Zone (LNA) Brigadier General Tahasih al-Rajbani, is allegedly establishing a joint operating room in Surman in “preparation for the liberation of Zawiyah from the remnants of terrorist groups.”
- Taher al-Gharabli, former chief of the Sabratah Military Council, confirmed he had been released after his arrest on November 15 and was in good health. Gharabli stated he had been questioned about the deaths of two people at a junction while he was chief. Gharabli used his arrest to claim he was not above the law and distanced himself from the killings. Gharabli was also implicated in the recent Dabbashi-led offensive against Sabratah on November 04.
- There are some indications that the Anas Dabbashi militia maybe preparing for further military action from their base in Abu Sara, southeast of Zawiyah.
- Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar met with delegations from Jufra and Sabha on November 17 in Benghazi to discuss security in the south. Haftar is currently trying to create support to push against Chadian rebel groups inside Libya and extend his influence in Sabha and Murzuq.
- The Sudanese Justice and Equality Movement has executed 11 of its field commanders in Libya. The move comes after a disagreement by the commanders to hand over a significant proportion of their earnings in Libya and came on the orders of the movements senior leadership led by Gibril Ibrahim.
- Locals reported that IS had established a checkpoint on a roundabout which links the coastal road, Hunaywah and Abuhadi in Sirte Province. The checkpoint consisted of two vehicles with IS banners which blocked the road with identity checks being carried out.
- The Minister of the Interior (GNA), Fathi Bashagha, has been negotiating with Kani Brigade over their demands that the Abu Saleem Central Security unit leaves Tripoli International Airport after they gave a 72-hour ultimatum on November 18. A meeting in Tajura between militia commanders suggests that attempts to rally support for further military action are underway although at present, have not gained traction in Tajura at least.
- An IED was found in Salahuddin, Tripoli by the Diplomatic Police. This is the second device found by the Diplomatic Police in the last two months and it is possible it is a remnant of the August/ September conflict.
- Bashagha has also called on the public to report any irregularities committed by members of the MoI Facilities Security Department. A new phone number has been issued for people to report any violations or irregularities

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to the Chamber of Operations of the Authority as the government tries to create accountability amongst the capital's security forces.

- The LNA has announced the results of its investigations into two incidents targeted against US citizens in 2012 and 2013 in Benghazi and states that those it has in its custody will be prosecuted.
- Vice President Ahmed Mateeq has discussed security at Khoms port with the city's mayor. Security in the city and specifically at the port has reportedly deteriorated in recent weeks.

Migrant Crisis

- The Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) denied accusations by Sudanese Intelligence that they are "heavily involved in the illegal human trafficking and slave trade in Libya."
- An Italian senator has stated that Niger has shown some willingness to host temporary reception camps in a bid to help stem the flow of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa to Libya.
- The IOM has resumed its voluntary return program in Sabha. The program was suspended about two years ago and has been restarted with support from the European Union's Trust Fund and aims to voluntarily repatriate migrants from the city which is a key hub along the human trafficking network.
- The IOM helped 116 Nigerian nations return to Nigeria on November 15.
- Nearly 80 migrants who had barricaded themselves on the Nivin which docked at Misrata Port on November 10 were forcibly removed this week by security forces allegedly using tear gas and rubber bullets.

Oil & Gas

- The NOC Chairman Mustapha Sanalla has stated that Libya needs up to \$60 billion in investment to revive its energy industry. \$40 billion is needed to increase refining capabilities to a million barrels a day with a further \$20 billion needed over five years to develop upstream infrastructure. He stated that talk was underway with the UK energy services firm Wood Group to prepare a study on overhauling the country's refining assets with plans for grassroots integrated refining and petrochemical plants.

Health

- 46 cases of food poisoning ended in hospital in Ajdabiya. The majority were discharged after receiving treatment. The food poisoning was traced back to a restaurant in the city which was serving "rotten" food. The establishment has been closed and the manager detained.
- There were a number of injuries attributed to fireworks in Tripoli as people celebrated Prophet Mohammed's birthday.

Infrastructure

- Power cuts affected parts of eastern Libya after the collapse of electricity pylons near Qaradaba area, west of Tobruk on November 20. Power was restored by November 22.

Travel

- The new CEO of Sirte Airport, Saleh Abojazia, has inspected the rehabilitation works ongoing at the facility. The facility has suffered repeated thefts by criminal gangs since the town was taken control of by IS in 2015 before they were finally ousted at the end of 2016.
- FCM Travel Solutions has announced the resumption of flights between Tripoli and Malta. Round trips will be made on Saturdays and Wednesdays to Mitiga Airport. Flight services have been disrupted after Europe accused the Malta Civilian Aviation Authority of circumventing the European ban on Libyan airports.
- Two syndicates from the Civil Aviation Authority went on strike on the morning of November 18 over demands for a pay increase. There was no reported disruption to services as Air Traffic did not join the strike, however, striking workers have threatened to carry on with their action if their demands are not met.
- Eighteen civil society organizations used the International Day of Remembrance of Road Victims to call on the government for better road safety. They called for speed limits to be obeyed, traffic lights to be respected, seatbelts and suitable restraints for children to be worn, a ban on the use of mobile phones whilst driving and for unsafe vehicles to be banned from the road.
- Medavia Airlines canceled flights into Mitiga Airport. The cancelations were believed to be the result of a permit which hadn't been issued.
- Economic reforms by the PC are allegedly forcing Libyan Airlines and Afriqiyah to triple their prices by December, even on tickets already bought.

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KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
December 01	Tripoli Half-Marathon	
December 24	Independence Day	Libya declared independence in 1951.
January	National Gathering	
February 17	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
March – June	UNSMIL proposed timelines for elections	

THREAT MATRIX

Region	Political	Terrorism	Militancy	Crime	K&R
Tripolitania	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High	High
Cyrenaica	High	High	Moderate	High	High
Fezzan	High	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High	Extreme



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Security

Tripoli: Kani still building pressure and threatening further military action

After its failure to take and hold Tripoli International Airport on November 14, Kani again looked to apply pressure to the capital's security forces. At just before 2300hrs on November 18, Kani Brigades spokesman Saad al-Hamali stated they had given 72 hours for ASCS to withdraw from the airport and hand the facility over to them. The threat of another offensive against the city, and/or Tripoli International Airport therefore remains extant.

UN: Saleh Badi placed under individual sanctions

On November 16, the United Nations Security Council adopted individual sanctions against Saleh Badi, a UK, US and French initiative. The UK stated that Badi is the “senior commander of Al-Sumood Brigade, a militia opposed to the UN-recognised Government of National Accord. He has worked consistently to undermine a political solution in Libya. In August and September 2018, Saleh Badi played a leading role in heavy clashes in Tripoli in which at least 120 people were killed, most of whom were civilians.” The UK went on to state that the “designation will subject Saleh Badi to a travel ban and asset freeze, thereby sending a clear message from the international community that acts of violence against the Libyan people will not be tolerated.”

LNA: Belgium transferred weapons in 2016

General Ahmed al-Mismari, spokesman of the Libyan National Army (LNA), has stated that they have evidence “confirming the involvement of Belgium in the sending of arms to the Tripolitania militias and the terrorist groups of Derna and Benghazi.” Mismari claimed they had identified “suspicious flights transporting arms from Belgium to Libya in 2016.”



WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tritolitania

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - Nov 16 04:00, Tripoli Province, Ghut Al-Shaal: The Marouq militia from Zintan launched an attack against the Ghut Shaal police station in a bid to free Salim al-Hudairi. Hudairi, who lives in Ghut Shaal, is a member of the family-based Marouq militia who was arrested a few days previously for assault and an attempted car-jacking. Hudairi was reportedly released during the attack.
- Armed Attack - Nov 16, Tripoli Province, Ghut Al-Shaal: In response to the Marouq militia attack against the Ghut Shaal police station, Emad Trablesi launched an attack against the Marouq militia at the Tobacco Camp. Two militia members were reported to have been killed, including Zintan commander Ahmed al-Fahhal.
- Armed Clash - Nov 16, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: Clashes continued between the Meqaraha and Mashashiya tribes.
- Arrest - Nov 17, Al-Murqub Province, Wadi Kaam: The Security Directorate in Khoms and Zliten has arrested a criminal gang responsible for stealing copper wire from electrical poles in the Wadi Kaam area which sits between the two cities.
- Armed Clash - Nov 17, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: Clashes between the Meqaraha and Mashashiya tribes have stopped as local and tribal elders seek to maintain calm while the case is settled by the law. A number of people have been killed and wounded in clashes which began on November 15 after members of the Mashashiya tribe tried to return to Abuqila.
- Armed Clash - Nov 17, Sirte Province, Sirte: A shootout between neighbors has left one dead and two wounded in Second District. Local security units intervened to stop the fighting.
- Airstrike - Nov 17, Misrata Province, Sadada: The LNA carried out three airstrikes against an "al-Qaeda linked group" which the LNA states has been behind "several recent attacks." Dozens of weapons and vehicles were destroyed in the attack. The group is likely to be BDB.
- Kidnap - Nov 18, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: The Director of Tripoli Medical Services was kidnapped resulting in hospital operations being suspended.
- Demonstration - Nov 18, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Two syndicates from the Civil Aviation Authority went on strike on the morning of November 18 over demands for a pay increase. There was no reported disruption to services as Air Traffic did not join the strike however striking workers have threatened to carry on with their action if their demands are not met.
- Crime - Nov 19, Tripoli Province, Crimea: The Crimea Market was targeted again by thieves. This time, they targeted Samba Street. The wholesale market area was last targeted on November 10 when ten shops had holes cut through metal doors to facilitate access. The area had been secured by 301 Battalion but is now under Zintani control. Security has deteriorated in the area since the changeover with the latest attack taking place close to a Zintan checkpoint.
- CP/ Road Block - Nov 19, Sirte Province, Wadi al-Hunaywah: Locals reported that IS had established a checkpoint on a roundabout which links the coastal road, Hunaywah and Abuhadi. The checkpoint consisted of two vehicles with IS banners which blocked the road with identity checks being carried out. The checkpoints remained until the evening suggesting significant freedom of movement east of Sirte where the Sirte Protection Force meets the LNA.
- Shooting - Nov 19, Misrata Province, Bani Waled: The owner of a petrol station was shot.
- Demonstration - Nov 19, Misrata Province, Bani Waled: Petrol station owners protested after one of their own was shot. The protest led to a shortage of fuel being distributed in the area.
- Demonstration - Nov 20, Misrata Province, Misrata: Security forces forcibly removed nearly 80 migrants from the Nivin after they refused to disembark allegedly using tear gas and rubber bullets. 95 people had initially barricaded themselves in on November 10 after the Nivin conducted a rescue at sea on November 07 and brought them back to Libya where they were heading with a cargo of vehicles. The migrants refused to disembark, stating that Libya was unsafe. 14 people including a lady and child had voluntarily disembarked with reports that between 77 and 79 people were left on board. Some were taken for medical treatment while others were taken to the Karareem detention center in the center of Misrata. At least two people needed surgery.

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- IED Found/Cleared - Nov 20, Tripoli Province, Salahaddin: The EOD team of the General Directorate for the Protection of Diplomatic Missions found an IED containing 5kg of TNT.
- Arrest - Nov 20, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zuwara: The Security Directorate raided a house which was being used to produce wine. The home's owner was arrested.
- Arrest - Nov 20, Tripoli Province, Ayn Zarah: Security forces arrested a gang who stole over 600,000 LYD from a house. One member of the gang had reportedly worked at the house for a number of years.
- Murder/ Execution - Nov 21, Tripoli Province, Swani: A member of the Sports Security Unit was shot dead and his body found in Swani.
- Arrest - Nov 21, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A suspect was arrested for the murder of a member of the Sports Security Unit whose body was found in Swani after he was shot to death earlier in the day.
- Mine Found/Cleared - Nov 22, Sirte Province, Abu Hadi: A land mine was found and cleared by EOD.

Cyrenaica

Incidents

- Murder/ Execution - Nov 16, Al-Marj Province, Marj: The body of an Egyptian national was found in a sewer. He had gone missing three days previously after an argument with a work colleague who has now been arrested.
- IED - Nov 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: An IED detonated destroying a bulldozer.
- Crime - Nov 18, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A man was robbed and stabbed by a taxi driver and two passengers after he got into the vehicle. The man, al-Ajili, was wounded in the attack.
- Kidnap - Nov 18, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: Armed men kidnapped 16 Egyptian workers after a Libyan contractor accused their Egyptian business partner of stealing 100,000 LYD and leaving the country. After an outcry from their families in Herda, Egypt, the men were released on November 21 after a deal was struck. Some had money paid on their behalf while others had to sign to say they would remain in Libya and work to settle the gunmen's demands. Three of the men may have escaped however their families were unaware of their location.
- Murder/ Execution - Nov 19, Kufra Province, Kufra: The Sudanese Justice and Equality Movement has executed 11 of its field commanders in Libya. The move comes after a disagreement by the commanders to hand over a significant proportion of their earnings in Libya and came on the orders of the movements senior leadership led by Gibril Ibrahim. Seven months ago, seven of the group's leaders were prosecuted after rejecting the leadership's policies, suggesting this latest escalation is part of a wider effort by senior leadership to maintain control over the disparate group.
- Arrest - Nov 20, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A truck was stopped trying to smuggle food products from Egypt.
- Arrest - Nov 21, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: The Security Directorate arrested someone on suspicion of murder. The murder was reported to have taken place a few days previously in Sirte and the suspect has been handed over to authorities in Sirte indicating cooperation between security forces aligned with the east and west.
- Accident - Nov 21, Benghazi Province, Salmani: A gas cylinder exploded in a house, injuring 13 people the area of Salmani in the city of Benghazi. According to a local source, the wounded were taken to Al-Jalaa hospital for surgery and accidents to receive the necessary treatment, noting that among the wounded were two critical cases.
- Crime - Nov 22, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: A suspect was arrested and a vehicle transporting 108kg of cannabis was seized.
- Armed Clash - Nov 22, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA and remnants of the DPF clashes with some reports suggesting three casualties.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - Nov 17, Ghat Province, Acacus Mountains: A photographer, Sanad Alahlafy, denied being kidnapped in the Acacus Mountains while on photo tour with a group of foreign tourists. Alahlafy stated they were all fine and under the protection of the Libyan Army. The Mayor of Ghat however reported that they had



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been attacked by armed men and abducted. A search found the group without their vehicles. The mayor stated that the search was funded by local people with fuel bought from the black market. He stated that they were trying to stimulate tourism in the region "amid harsh economic conditions."

- Demonstration - Nov 18, Sabha Province, Sabha: Protestors closed the Municipal Council HQ, blocking the arrival of a crisis committee mandated by the PC to look at the issues in the city and the south in general. Protestors also locked the doors although the dean of the municipality stated that the protestors needed to be clear in their demands, stating that there were several different issues motivating people.
- Kidnap - Nov 19, Sabha Province, Sabha Airport: Abdulkreem Faraj Abdulla al-Faraji and Hussain Mohamed Lafrugi were kidnapped from their farm at the back of Sabha Airport.
- Crime - Nov 20, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Sharara Oilfield: An armed group of eight men attacked Sharara oilfield on November 20 and stole three vehicles as well as mobile phones belonging to Akakus employees.



ACRONYM LIST

AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)
 AQ - Al-Qaeda
 BAM – Al Bunyan Al Marsous (Misrata aligned)
 BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
 CBL – Central Bank of Libya
 CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
 GATMJB - Operations Room for the Liberation of the City Ajdabiya and Support for Benghazi Rebels
 GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
 GMMR – Great Man-made River
 GNA – Government of National Accord (UN-backed)
 GNC – General National Congress
 HNEC – High National Elections Commission
 HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk-based)
 IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
 IED - Improvised Explosive Device
 IOC - International Oil Company
 IS - Islamic State
 LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
 LNA – Libyan National Army
 LNG – Libyan National Guard
 LPA – Libyan Political Agreement
 LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
 MoD - Ministry of Defense
 MoF - Ministry of Finance
 MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education
 Mol - Ministry of Interior
 MoJ - Ministry of Justice
 MoO - Ministry of Oil
 MoT - Ministry of Transportation
 MSCD – Mujahideen Shura Council of Derna (AQ aligned)
 NFDK - No Further Details Known
 NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
 NOC – National Oil Company
 NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)
 NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
 PC – Presidency Council (GNA)
 PG – Presidential Guard
 PFG- Petroleum Facilities Guard
 PSC - Private Security Company
 PSD - Private Security Detail
 RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
 RSCB - Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi
 RTA - Road Traffic Accident
 SDB – Saraya Defend Benghazi / Benghazi Defense Brigade (BDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
 SDF – Special Deterrence Force/ Rada/ Rada Deterrence Force
 Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
 UXO - Unexploded Ordnance

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